

A series of pinnacles rising from the embattled parapet on all four sides, larger pinnacles at the angles, and a beautiful spire surmounting a stairs' turret on the north side of the tower (restored in 1842), render the upper part of it exceedingly picturesque. The tower is an excellent piece of masonry, and in good preservation. It can scarcely be considered earlier than the 15th century, notwithstanding that the drip-cornels of the west door are supposed to represent the heads of Edward III. and his queen.*

The view from the churchyard, embracing Stoke and Lansdown, is beautiful; and the vicarage, rebuilt by the present incumbent, who, for many years here quietly placed, seems to have found a chief delight in the restoration and improvement of his church, offers many points of interest. Himself a zealous antiquary, Mr. Ellacombe welcomes all who pursue the same study, or find pleasure in examining the architectural works of our forefathers.

MAGISTRATES AND THE BUILDING ACT. DIVIDING WALLS IN WAREHOUSES.

On Friday, Mr. G. Todd, the builder, was charged on an information before Mr. Jardine, at Bow-street, under 7th & 8th Vict. cap. 84, with neglecting to build a party-wall to divide a warehouse he had erected in Oxford-street, containing within the same more than 200,000 cubic feet.

A solicitor who attended to support the information on behalf of Mr. Pownall, the District Surveyor, stated, that the Act came into operation in January, 1845, and its object was to prevent serious casualties from fire, &c. The Act provided, that every warehouse containing with the walls more than 200,000 cubic feet, should be divided by a party wall. The defendant received notice from the district surveyor, soon after the commencement of the works, that he must build a party wall, or he would infringe the Act; but as he still continued to build, the matter was laid before the official referees, who made an award, that the building was constructed contrary to the Act, and that it contained more than 200,000 cubic feet, without any party wall. Upon this the defendant applied to the Commissioners of Woods and Works, for a modification of the rules of the Act affecting his building, but they declined interfering in his favour. Mr. Merrick, for whom the premises were built, occupied them when finished, and carried on the business of a paper-stainer; but as the builder refused to alter the premises, the referees withdrew a temporary license they had granted to Mr. Merrick to carry on his business there; and on his refusing to discontinue it, or build a party wall as directed by the referees, the present proceedings were taken against the builder.

Mr. Prendergast, who appeared for the defendant, took a preliminary objection to the wording of the information, which the magistrate overruled.

Mr. Pownall was then called to give evidence in support of the charge, but the defendant's counsel raised the objection that he was an interested party, inasmuch as he would be entitled, in case of conviction, to claim the expenses of the information, which objection Mr. Jardine held to be good.

Mr. Gosling, his clerk, was then called, and the certificate of the official referees declaring the building to be contrary to the provisions of the Act being put in, he proved the handwriting of the referees and the seal of the registrar; on describing, however, the situation of the premises, there appeared to be a discrepancy between the preliminary notices and information, and the certificate of the official referees; the two former stating that the premises were situate at the back of a street called "Oxford-street," while the last-named document described them as being at the back of a street called "New Oxford-street," or Oxford-street East.*

The magistrate regretting that the case was stopped on such a point, as well he might, held the discrepancy to be fatal, and the summons was dismissed. The matter of course will not end here, and expensive litigation will probably be the result. The ruling by Mr. Jardine that a district surveyor cannot be a witness is important.

* Mr. Ellacombe thinks that, like New College, Oxford, it may belong to the 14th century.

THE LIFE OF SIR JOHN SOANE.

THE following is the chronological view of Sir John Soane's life, by Mr. G. Bailey, referred to last week:—

Born at Reading, 10th September, 1753; entered the office of Mr. George Dance, 1768; exhibited his first drawing at the fourth exhibition at the Royal Academy. "Front of a nobleman's town-house," 1772; the same year he obtained the silver medal at the R.A. for the best drawing of the front of the Banqueting House at Whitehall, 1772; he was an unsuccessful competitor for the gold medal at the R.A., 1774; he gained the gold medal for the best design for a triumphal bridge, 1776; he left London for Italy, 1777; his first publication, entitled, "Designs in Architecture," appeared in 1778; elected member of the Academy of Fine Arts at Parma, and returned to London from Italy, June, 1780; designed and executed extensive alterations and additions to Mulgrave Hall, near Whitby, Yorkshire, for the Earl of Mulgrave—and to Ryston Hall, 1784; a house for the Rev. G. Gooch, Norfolk, 1784; Tentering Hall, in Suffolk, for Admiral Sir Joshua Rowley, 1781; a house at Shottisham, near Norwich, for Robert Fellowes, Esq., 1785-8; Letton Hall, for B. G. Dillingham, Esq., 1785-8; appointed architect and surveyor to the Bank of England, 16th October, 1788; rebuilt Blackfriars-bridge, at Norwich, 1789; designed and executed extensive additions to Chillington, the seat of Mr. Gifford, 1789; a house for the Rev. Charles Collyer, Gunthorpe, 1789; extensive alterations and additions to Bentley Priory, near Stanmore, for the Marquis of Abercorn, 1789-1790; to Skelton Castle, for John Wharton, Esq., 1791; alterations and additions to Norwich Castle, 1788-1791; alterations and additions to Moggerhanger House, Bedfordshire, the seat of Godfrey Thornton, Esq., 1790-9; appointed Clerk of the Works to St. James's Palace, the two Houses of Parliament, and other public buildings in Westminster, 1791; designed and executed alterations and additions to Barons Court, in Ireland, a seat of the Marquis of Abercorn, 1791-2; to Wimpole, the seat of the Earl of Hardwicke, 1791-3; his own house, No. 12, Lincoln's-Inn-fields, 1792; Buckingham House, in Pall Mall, for the late Marquis of Buckingham, and a town mansion for the Duke of Leeds, in St. James's-square, 1790-4; designed and executed alterations and additions to Sulby Lodge, Northamptonshire, the seat of René Payne, Esq., 1792; published a work, entitled, "Sketches in Architecture," 1793; designed and executed Tiringham Hall, near Newport Pagnel, for Wm. Praed, Esq., 1793-6; a house at Reading, for W. B. Simmonds, Esq., 1791-1802; the entrance gates and lodge in Hyde-park, opposite Great Cumberland-street (since taken down), 1794; a house for the Hon. Mrs. Yorke (near Southampton), 1794; became a member of the Society of Antiquaries, 1795; elected Associate of the Royal Academy, 1795; appointed architect for new buildings and repairs in the royal parks, woods, and forests, July, 1795; designed and executed extensive alterations and additions at Bagden House, for the Earl of Ailesbury, 1795; ditto at Hinton St. George, for Earl Paulet, 1796; designed and executed a house at Reading, for L. Austwick, Esq., 1796; alterations and additions to Holwood House, the seat of the Right Hon. W. Pitt, 1797-99; erected a house in Stratton-street, Piccadilly, for Col. Graham, 1797-8; designed and executed alterations and additions to a house for the Countess of Pembroke, Grosvenor-square, 1797-8; offered himself candidate for the surveyorship of the East-India Company, 1799; Letter to the Earl Spencer, K.G., 1799; designed and executed extensive alterations and additions to a house in St. James's-square, for Samuel Thornton, Esq., 1799-1809; to Aynho, Bucks, the seat of W. R. Cartwright, Esq., 1800-1; designed and executed the Banking-house in Fleet-street, for Messrs. Praeds and Co., 1801; elected Royal Academician, 1802; designed and executed alterations and additions at Albury Park, the seat of Samuel Thornton, Esq., 1802; ditto, at Cricket Lodge, near Chard, the seat of the Viscount Bridport, 1802; designed and executed the obelisk in the market-place at Reading, erected at the expense of E. Smeaton, Esq., 1804; built a large house, counting-houses, warehouses, &c., in Fountain-court, Aldersbury, for W. A. Jackson, Esq., 1804; a villa, for himself, at Esling, 1804; designed and executed alterations and additions to Port Eliot, St. Germans, Cornwall, the seat of Lord Eliot, afterwards Earl of St. Germans, 1804; at Ramsey Abbey, Huntingdonshire, the seat of W. H. Fellowes, Esq., 1804-1807; to a house at Rotherhampton, for John Thomson, Esq., 1804-1806; to a house in St. James's-square, for Lord Eliot, and the Earl of St. Germans, 1805-1819; the Gothic Library, at Stowe House, Bucks, 1805-1806; alterations and additions to Macartney House, Blackheath, the seat of the Hon. G. F. Lyttleton, 1806-1807; elected professor of architecture, in the Royal

Academy, 1806; erected a new mansion at Moggerhanger, in Bedfordshire, for Stephen Thornton, Esq., 1806-1811; a monumental tomb, in the churchyard, at Leytonstone, in Essex, for Samuel Bosanquet, Esq., 1807; appointed clerk of the works of the Royal Hospital, at Chelsea, 1807; made designs for the completion of Taymouth Castle, the seat of the Earl of Breadalbane, 1808; for the Royal Academical Institution, at Belfast, 1808; designed and executed a mausoleum, adjoining the house of Mr. Degenfars, in Charlotte-street, Portland-place, 1808; the five new houses, in Prince's-street, forming "New Bank Buildings," 1808-1810; the new infirmary, at Chelsea Hospital, 1809; read the first lecture, Royal Academy, 27th March, 1809; repeated the first lecture on the 8th January, 1810; lectures stopped, at the fourth lecture, on the 29th January, 1810; designed and executed alterations and additions to Whitley Abbey, near Coventry, the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Hood, 1810; the entrance to the London Dock Company House, and to the counting-house of Messrs. Thellusson and Co., in Meeting-house Court, Old Jewry, 1811; lectures resumed, 9th of January, 1812; designed and executed a house in Park-lane, for Mr. Robins, 1812; alterations and additions to Everton House, Bedfordshire, the seat of William Astell, Esq., 1812; designed and built his own house, 13, Lincoln's-Inn-fields, 1812; the New Gallery, at Dulwich College, to receive the collection of pictures, bequeathed by Sir Francis Bourgeois, and a mausoleum, wherein are deposited the remains of Sir F. Bourgeois and Mr. and Mrs. Desenfans, 1812; elected Grand Superintendent of Works to the United Fraternity of Freemasons, 1813; designed and executed additions to the Earl of Hardwicke's house in St. James's-square, 1815; appointed one of the attached architects to the Office of Works, 1815; designed and built a farm-house, for Thomas Swinerton, Esq., at Butterton, in Staffordshire, 1816-1817; designed and executed extensive alterations and additions to the banking-house of Messrs. Grote, Prescott, and Co., in Threadneedle-street, 1818; designed and built the National Debt Redemption and Life Annuities Office, in the Old Jewry, 1818-1819; alterations and additions to Marden Hall, near Hertford, the seat of George Thornton, Esq., 1818; designed and built a house for the Rev. G. Monins, at Ringwood, near Deal, 1813-1815; houses in Regent-street, for Mr. Robins, and others, 1820-1821; the new law courts, at Westminster, between, 1820-1827; designed and superintended the re-building of Wotton House, in Buckinghamshire, the seat of the Marquis of Chandos, 1820-22; chosen a fellow of the Royal Society, 1821; designed and executed Pelwall House, near Market Drayton, for Purney Sillitoe, Esq., 1821; a new church at Walworth, in the parish of St. Mary, Newington, 1822; the new Scala Regia Royal Gallery and Library, in the House of Lords, 1822-1824; Trinity Church, St. Marylebone, 1824; a new chapel in the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal-green, 1824; designed and erected the new office for the Board of Trade, and the Privy Council offices, 1821-7; additional committee-rooms, House of Lords, 1825; additional committee-rooms and a new library for the House of Commons, 1826; the new grand Masonic Hall, adjoining Freemason's Hall, in Great Queen-street, 1826; Printed for private distribution, "Designs for public and private buildings," 1827; published, a brief statement of the proceedings respecting the new law courts, at Westminster, 1828; designed and executed the New State Paper Office in Duke-street, Westminster, 1829-1833; the ante-room to the Sculpture Gallery of Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A., 1831; received the honour of knighthood from his Majesty King William IV., 21st of September, 1831; printed for private distribution, a "Description of the house and museum on the north side of Lincoln's-Inn-fields," 1832; resigned the appointment of architect and surveyor to the Bank, 16th of October, 1833; Procured an Act of Parliament for settling his museum, library, and works of art in Lincoln's-Inn-fields, for the benefit of the public, 20th April, 1833; presented with impressions in bronze, silver, and gold, of a medal, struck in his honour by the architects of England, March, 1835; received a medal from the Société libre des Beaux Arts at Paris, 1835; elected member of the Academy of Fine Arts at Vienna, 1835; elected consigliere corrispondente of the Academy of Fine Arts at Parma, 1836; elected honorary member of the Société libre des Beaux Arts, at Paris, 9th December, 1836; expired at his house in Lincoln's-Inn Fields, 20th of January, 1837.*

* The following is a list of the more important designs and compositions made by Sir John Soane:—A design for a British senate house, and design for a royal palace, 1777; a design for a castello d'aqua, 1777; a design for a casino, 1778; a design to convert a Roman temple into a casino, 1778; a design for a summer dining-room, for the Bishop of Derry, and various designs for the improvement of his lordship's private residence, at the Downhill, near Armagh, in Ireland, 1778-1779; a design for an ornamental dog-house, 1780; a design for a mausoleum and cenotaph, to the memory of Lord Chatham, 1778; designs in competition for two penitentiary houses, the one to contain 600 males, the other for 300 females, 1781; designs for a building to correspond with